

# Instructions for using dpkg command on Linux Debian

This article will talk about the basics of package management in Debian and how to manage software packages using the dpkg command.

All Linux distributions come with a specific package manager. For Debian distributions based on Debian, the default package manager is 'apt' or 'apt-get' or the graphics software center. These package managers in turn rely on low-level dpkg tools to manage software packages.

This article will talk about the basics of package management in Debian and how to manage software packages using the dpkg command.

## The dpkg command in the Linux distribution is based on Debian

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## Learn about package management in Debian

Package management in Debian uses several diverse package management tools - such as 'apt-get', 'aptitude', 'dpkg', 'apt-file', 'dselect', 'tasksel' and 'gdebi' - to manage software on the system. These tools are called package managers. Some, not all, these tools use dpkg low-level tool commands to provide advanced functionality.

The dpkg command allows you to easily install and remove software, as well as manipulate and upgrade the software seamlessly.



## How to use dpkg command

### How to install software / packages with dpkg command

You can use dpkg to install the software using the following command. This command can also upgrade a package, if it is already installed.

```
dpkg -i package_name.deb
```

The above command requires you to have a real .deb file on your computer.

### List a list of currently installed packages

To list or display packages currently installed on a Debian-based distribution, you can use the following commands:

```
dpkg -l search_pattern
```

```
ii 0trace      0.01-3      amd64      A traceroute tool that can run wi
ii aapt        1:7.0.0+r33- amd64      Android Asset Packaging Tool
ii acccheck   0.2.1-3     all        Password dictionary attack tool f
ii accountsservic 0.6.45-1   amd64      query and manipulate user account
ii ace-voip   1.10-1kali5 amd64      A simple VoIP corporate directory
ii acl        2.2.52-3+b1 amd64      Access control list utilities
ii adduser    3.116       all        add and remove users and groups
ii adwaita-icon-t 3.26.1-3   all        default icon theme of GNOME
ii afflib-tools 3.7.16-2   amd64      Advanced Forensics Format Library
ii aglfn      1.7-3       all        Adobe Glyph List For New Fonts
ii aha        0.4.10.6-4  amd64      ANSI color to HTML converter
ii aircrack-ng 1:1.2-0-rc4 amd64      wireless WEP/WPA cracking utiliti
ii albatross-gtk- 1.7.4-1     all        dark and light GTK+ theme from th
ii alsa-tools 1.1.3-1     amd64      Console based ALSA utilities for
ii amap       5.4-4       amd64      next-generation scanning tool for
ii amd64-microcod 3.20171205.1 amd64      Processor microcode firmware for
ii anacron    2.3-24      amd64      cron-like program that doesn't go
```

If you want to list all installed packages, just skip [search\_pattern]:

```
dpkg -l
```

### Delete installed packages

If you have installed a package but don't use it anymore, you can use the following command to uninstall it. This command removes the entire package, except for configuration files:

```
dpkg -r package_name.deb
```

## List the contents of a package

You can use the following commands to list the contents of a package on your Linux computer:

```
dpkg --contents package_name.deb
```

You can also use **-c** instead of **--contents**.

```
dpkg -c package_name.deb
```

## Check if the package is installed

Assuming you want to check if you have installed a specific package on your computer, use the following command to check:

```
dpkg -s package_name.deb
```

## Check the location of the installed package

If you just want to find out where the package will be installed, use **-L**:

```
dpkg -L package_name.deb
```

## Displays detailed information about a package

This command displays detailed information about a package:

```
dpkg -p package_name.deb
```

## Install multiple packages simultaneously

If you have some deb files that you want to install, you can run the following command to install them all at once. Note that to do this, you must put all .deb files in the same directory:

```
dpkg -R --install / deb-files-location /
```

## Extract a deb package

Sometimes you may want to decompress deb package to make changes to its files. Use this command to decompress the deb file:

```
dpkg --unpack package_name.deb
```

## Configure the deb package that has not been packaged

After you've made changes to the files, use this command to configure and repackage them into a deb file to install:

```
dpkg --configure package_name
```

## Need more information about dpkg command?

If you want to know more about the dpkg command, you can use the command below. It shows detailed information about commands and dpkg options:

```
dpkg --help
```

Most Debian-based package managers rely only on dpkg to get things done. With the above commands, you can learn the basics, when all other installation methods fail.

See more:

1. Basic Linux commands everyone needs to know
2. Basic Shell commands in Linux
3. Kali Linux commands from AZ and commonly used commands

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